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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission on Disability

MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2012

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Senior Planner Alice Walkup
Community Development

CD Manager
Anne Marie Belrose

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky

Advisor
Sargeant Jay Babcock
Newton Police Department

Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Barbara Lischinsky
John Lojek
Lucie Chansky
Rosemary Larking

Advisor:

Sergeant Jay Babcock

Regrets:

Jini Fairley

Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services

City Hall Employees:

Alice Walkup, Senior Planner, Community Development
Anne Marie Belrose

Guests:

Beverly Droz
Sandra Lingley

Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes:

R. Larking made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2012 meeting and J. Lojek seconded the motion.

2. CDBG Report:

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At the last meeting it was voted on to reconstruct curb cuts & Washington St & if possible move APS unit closer to the

The work is completed at Pearl & Jackson with exception of the painting.

R. Caruso commented that the apex curb cuts used at Pearl & Jackson look great, best use of the apex curb cut.

The Newton Centre playground will go before the Conservation Commission in January. Planning is working with Engineering on MOU, thinking of combining phases 4-6, work to be completed in the spring/summer.

At the January meeting we will discuss projects, etc. for 2014.

R. Caruso asked about plus & minus balance. There is \$27,000 left over for re-programing. Anne Marie Belrose will be meeting with the Mayor about his plan of action.

3. Wheelchair Lift update:

Anne Marie Belrose met with the Architect; Marion Tuchman about what the best solution for the Lift is and examining where Lift should be located. They also discussed the option of putting in an elevator. Marion Tuchman will present her findings to the Commission.

The estimated cost of \$80, 000 for the Lift could change if they choose the elevator option.

Stephanie Gilman (Public Buildings), Anne Marie Belrose & Marion Tuchman will be meeting to discuss options further.

G. Plante asked when it changed from Lift to elevator. Marion Tuchman thought it might work better on ground level. The money could be significantly more, depending on type of elevator.

The project is anticipated to start in late spring.

G. Plante asked if the location of the elevator will be different from the Lift. Anne Marie says they are looking at it being located on Homer St side with in stairwell.

J. Lojek expressed his fears of the elevator being unaffordable and turning into an unfeasible project.

Anne Marie & Stephanie are thinking that the Lift might not be acceptable from the AAB stand point.

4. ADA Coordinator update:

the status of hiring an ADA Coordinator. J. Lojek says he resumes until they have enough to start the interview with the MMA.

R. Caruso made a site visit and says its flat & 60", plenty of room, looks good.

6. Newtonville HP space:

Sgnt. Babcock gave a report on HP space & presented pictures. He proposed to move space further North on Walnut St. His concerns of where the space is now are for pedestrians, the crosswalk is located right behind HP space. The proposed space is 30' long and has a pump out behind space, eliminating the possibility of backing up to crosswalk. The new space he feels is safer.

The Traffic Council wants the proposed HP space to be used as a loading zone.

Srgt. Babcock would like the COD to vote on moving existing HP space in Newtonville further North on Walnut St, in front of " Oom Yung Doe" & "In Shape".

The Commission on Disability unanimously voted that the existing HP space in Newtonville be moved further north on Walnut St in front of "Oom Yung Doe" (karate studio) & "In Shape", eastern side facing north, in front of bump out where crosswalk is. (across the street from Bank of America) per Sergeant Babcocks suggestion.

Srgnt Babcock will present the decision of the vote to the next meeting of the Traffic Council.

7. Newton South update:

J. Lojek pointed out that the front entrance is not handicap accessible because of the doors, ramps & walkways & there is only 1 HP space in the parking lot.

Discussion of e-mail sent from Stephanie Gilman. Public Buildings say that the HP sign is frequently knocked down by plows and they are currently trying to rectify the problem.

It was brought up that the principle of Newton South parks in the HP space & it looks like the HP sign(s) have been moved & are facing the wrong way.

A slide show was presented to the Commission of the HP spaces, ramps & walkways that lead to a locked door.

The Commission feels that the entrance that has a cover over it should have an electric door opener.

J. Lojek says that Hull St is still not completed & feels that the Commission should put a deadline on the completion of project & if it is not met it should be brought to the attention of the AAB.

Meeting with the developer Jack Sigler & Steve Buchbinder
able to convince them that 1 consultant for the entire

They also discussed the sidewalk around perimeter and the lack of crosswalks, after discussion & concerns Jack was affable & said that the crosswalks will be put into the plan, similar to Arbor Point & Avalon apartments.

Jack would like the Commission to be involved throughout phases of project for their input.

R. Caruso & G. Plante says that they were very forth coming & that the developer & attorney are being very thorough.

9. New/Old Business

B. Lischinsky expresses her concerns of Beacon @ Waban Ave & Angier to T stop that there are no curb cuts, crosswalks but no curb cuts.

The cabs block crosswalks from the Highlands to T stop and won't move. R. Caruso says this happens all the time in the Highlands.

B. Lischinsky says the placements of sand buckets in middle of sidewalks are not safe. Srgnt. Babcock will inform the Engineering Dept. of the wrongly placed sand buckets & see if they can come up with a different solution.

R. Larking made and inquiry about a movie cinema having to accommodate a seat for an able body next to a handicap spot so they can sit together. R. Caruso does not know what the law says about this but will check into it and provide what he finds out to the Commission.

10. Adjourn/ Holiday Party

R. Caruso called meeting adjourned